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Bureau of Entomology & Plant Quarantine

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CONTROL OF THE PECAN NUT CASE-BEARER

(Supplementary to information
in Farmers' Bulletin 1654)

Since Farmers' Bulletin 1654, entitled "Insects of the Pecan and How to Combat Them," was last revised encouraging progress has been made towards the development of methods for controlling the pecan nut case-bearer. In experiments conducted for two or three seasons, the use of certain insecticides has given consistently good control of this insect, which previously had not yielded to insecticide treatments. Although the methods have not yet been tested extensively by commercial growers, information on them is here given for the benefit of anyone interested in trying them.

Nicotine-oil

In experiments conducted in southern Georgia and northern Florida by G. F. Moznette, of this Bureau, a high degree of control of the pecan nut case-bearer has been obtained by spraying the trees with nicotine sulphate (40%) at a strength of 1 to 1000 combined with a white oil emulsion at a strength of $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1%. Similar good results have been obtained by the use of nicotine sulphate with $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1% of fish oil instead of with the mineral oil emulsion. Two applications were made a week apart during the period when the first brood of case-bearer larvae were working on the newly formed nuts. In 1934 the dates for these applications in northern Florida were May 18 and May 25.

Lead Arsenate

In experiments conducted by C. B. Nickels under the semiarid conditions in the vicinity of Brownwood, Texas, good control of the nut case-bearer resulted from spraying the trees with lead arsenate at a strength of 3 pounds in 50 gallons of water. This confirms results which have been obtained by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Two applications of spray were put on in each experiment. In 1934 the first application was made between May 18 and May 25 and the second one between May 29 and June 6.

Lead arsenate is quite injurious to pecan foliage under humid conditions and this treatment is probably unsafe except under semiarid and arid conditions.

